Explanation and Reason for Proposed Rule
Subchapter 26B Veterans Affairs Commission December 8, 2014

NC General Statutes Section 165-22.1 provides that the administration of the Scholarships for Children of War Veterans shall be vested in the Department of Administration with the Veterans Affairs Commission responsible for determining eligibility, selection, effective date of scholarship and revocation under certain circumstances, inter alia. Over the past seven months, a review of the administration of the scholarship program was conducted at the request of the Veterans Affairs Commission. Accordingly, clarifying and technical updates in the scholarship application and review process are proposed to promote efficient and effective staff utilization while maintaining the integrity, consistency and fairness of the scholarship program.

The proposed changes address electronic submission, deadlines, application materials and process. For example, forms and applications are now available online in addition to paper copy; application packages may be submitted electronically (or via paper copy if online access is unavailable to applicant). Essays and targeted letters of recommendation (at least one of which must be from a teacher or guidance counselor) are required in place of a district service officer report of investigation and information. Disciplinary and attendance records must be included along with submission of student grade transcripts. Financial information about both the applicant and applicant's parents is sought to help determine the applicant's need for scholarship. Class I and IV scholarships will be awarded twice annually rather than on a rolling basis. Applicants are requested to submit all application materials (regardless of the class to which they apply) for timely placement in the appropriate scholarship class following certification of veteran parent's status. Deadlines are adjusted accordingly to allow for proper processing of all applications. Grammatical and typographical errors are repaired.